

# ECUMENICAL PRESS SERVICE

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## On Other Pages

Anglo-Catholics Oppose Merger Plan . . . . .	2
Britain Will Issue Modern Translation . . . . .	3
Kraemer Urges United Evangelism in Japan . . . . .	4
Catechism Revision Reflects Social Changes . . . . .	4
Church World Service Makes Far East Orphan Study . . . . .	4
South Africa Bishop Scores Discrimination . . . . .	5
In Brief . . . . .	8

## Catholic-Protestant Clergy Friendships Urged

(Sacramento, California) - Personal friendships between Protestants and Roman Catholic clergymen could serve as an effective preliminary to formal attempts at unity, a Roman Catholic student of the ecumenical movement in Europe, has declared.

The Rev. George H. Landzatt of the Benedictine monastery at Chevotogne, Belgium, told members of the Catholic Forum here that such relationships would help to shatter the "wall of prejudices on both sides".

Contending that the ecumenical movement has made greater progress in Europe than in the United States, Father Landzatt noted that his monastery was established in 1926 at the request of Pope Pius XI to prepare for the restoration of unity between Rome and the separated Eastern Churches.

"We have been laying the groundwork for unity for almost 40 years," he said. "The outlook is encouraging, but the accomplishment is far in the future."

Father Landzatt said the aim and hope of the forthcoming Second Vatican Ecumenical Council was "a more Catholic Church". He added that as a result of the council, "we may realize reforms which do not in any way affect the teachings of the Church, yet can smooth the road leading to future dialogues with other faiths".



Predicting that the multiplicity of Protestant sects in the United States would make unity efforts more difficult here than in Europe, Father Landzatt commented: "In our dealings at Chevetogne with other denominations... we are concerned only with the three principal ones: Lutherans, Anglicans and Reformed (Calvinist) Churches".

"Our aim," he continued, "is to create an atmosphere of sympathy, understanding and goodwill, so that a fruitful dialogue can be established between the faiths;"

Members of the Chevetogne community are trained to celebrate Mass according to both the Latin and Eastern rites, he said, in anticipation of the day when they may enter Russia and re-establish the Church there.

"Although all our priests are so trained," he added, "we realize that probably those of us now there will not live to see this accomplished,"      EPS, Geneva.

#### Anglo-Catholics Oppose Merger Plan

(New York) - A proposal to merge four major Protestant denominations in the United States into a united communion of close to 20,000,000 members has met with the opposition of the executive board of the American Church Union, an Anglo-Catholic organisation of Episcopal clergy and laymen.

The ACU board, in a statement issued here, said the proposal to merge the United Church of Christ, the United Presbyterian, the Protestant Episcopal and Methodist churches would "lead only down a dead-end street".

Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, stated clerk of the United Presbyterian Church, first made the proposal in a sermon in Grace Cathedral (Episcopal) in San Francisco preceding the National Council of Churches' triennial general assembly there. It was immediately hailed as "the greatest event since the Reformation" by Episcopal Bishop James A. Pike of San Francisco. Other reaction has been mixed.

Earlier, Methodist Bishop John Wesley Lord of the Washington, D.C., Area, viewed the recommendation "for a united and simplified Church of Christ" as one of historic significance, while Dr. Fred Hoskins and Dr. James E. Wagner, co-presidents of the United Church of Christ, promised that if such a joint invitation for discussions of merger were issued "it would be given most thoughtful consideration by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ". (See EPS No 47, 1960)

The ACU board statement stressed that the plan is not "an official proposal addressed to one Christian group by the governing body of another but... only the thinking and endorsement of two men". It objected that the Blake-Pike plan assumes "that the Episcopal Church is but one among the many Protestant denominations", instead of being "an integral part of the Historic, One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of Christ".

"Dr. Pike's reduction of the Episcopal Church to the status of a denomination is a distinct disservice to the entire Church", the statement continued.

Charging that "sacrifice of essential principle is only demanded of Episcopalians", the statement opposed the acceptance of women ministers of other denominations as "equals with priests of the Holy Catholic Church", and rejected a tendency to "equate the Reformation Confessions of Faith... with the Faith of the Creeds of the Historic Church (but without) overdue stress on the importance of any creeds".



Observing that Dr. Blake commended his proposal "on the basis of alleged successes of similar reunion proposals in Asia", the statement insisted that such plans in North India and Pakistan revealed that Anglicans have had to modify their positions considerably. "Therefore", it added, "Dr. Blake's identification of his proposal with Asian efforts is scarcely a recommendation but rather a warning to Episcopalians!"

EPS, Geneva.

### Britain Will Issue Modern Translation

(London) - Representatives of the churches which commissioned a modern translation of the English Bible will formally receive the first copies of the New Testament at a service in Westminster Abbey on March 14.

At the same service, an act of thanksgiving will be solemnized for the King James or Authorized Version of 1611, of which the 350th anniversary will be celebrated during the course of the year.

Nearly 1,000,000 copies of the 460-page New Testament portion of "The New English Bible" are expected to be printed on March 14 by Cambridge University Press and Oxford University Press throughout the English-speaking world, including the United States, Canada, England, Australia, New Zealand, India and South Africa.

Translated into "frankly contemporary" English from the original Hebrew and Greek, the new Bible is the work of an interdenominational committee of Biblical scholars representing 11 major church groups in the British Isles. The initiative for the new translation came originally from the Church of Scotland and was taken up by the British Council of Churches.

The New Testament represents 13 years of co-operative scholarship. In addition to the work done by many of Britain's foremost Biblical scholars, well-known authors were asked to improve the style of the translation.

The committee noted, in beginning work on the new translation, that "in the urgent task of evangelism, one main difficulty of the Church is the difference between the language customarily used by the Church, and English as currently spoken".

"There is a danger that archaic language may give the impression that the message itself is out of date and irrelevant. This is especially deplorable since the New Testament was written in the 'common' language of the time."

Dr. C.H. Dodd, the project's general director, expressed the hope that the new translation will supersede the Revised Version of 1885, which he said had never gained widespread popularity.

Noting that the committee had at its disposal manuscripts of the New Testament at least a century older than those available in 1885, Dr. Dodd said further that thousands of relevant papyrus documents have been discovered and that the knowledge of the Greek language of Biblical times is much more extensive today than it was in the nineteenth century.

"The new translation aims at presenting the content of the original in such a form that it may be read, so far as possible, as if it were the work of an English writer for an English public."

While a mystery surrounds the actual publication date of the King James Bible, it is known that it first appeared in 1611. Therefore, 350th anniversary celebrations will be held throughout the year under the auspices of a joint council headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Geoffrey F. Fisher.

EPS, Geneva.



Kraemer Urges United Evangelism in Japan

(Tokyo) - Dr. Hendrik Kraemer, well-known Dutch theologian, said recently that effective evangelism in Japan can only be accomplished through co-operation between various church groups.

Dr. Kraemer's observation was contained in a report made recently to the staff of the United Church of Japan, following an extensive lecture and preaching tour during which he held 25 consultations with such groups as the YMCA, YWCA, the Non-Church Movement, the National Council of Churches, and non-Christian groups.

While the United Church is a member of the World Council of Churches, he observed, the ordinary pastor does not understand or have any interest in the ecumenical aspects of the church.

Insisting that this is not the period for denominational evangelism, Dr. Kraemer contended that missionaries should also work together more co-operatively. Since there are only between 300,000 to 400,000 Protestants in Japan, he added, that narrow denominationalism and non-co-operation between missionaries represents a problem.

He further called upon Japanese churchmen to take a more active interest in social problems. Many people respect the church, he added, but feel that it should keep its distance when social and political issues are involved. EPS, Geneva.

Catechism Revision Reflects Social Changes

(London) - The Convocation of Canterbury, consisting of the bishops and elected representatives of the clergy of the Southern Province of the Church of England, will consider a revision of the 300-year-old catechism when it convenes at Church House, Westminster, January 17-19.

The changes were recommended by a commission of bishops and laymen appointed in 1958 by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. The commission has attempted to set forth "the minimum basic facts necessary for instruction in the Christian faith", and has therefore simplified the teaching material, modernized the language, and has taken note of changed social conditions.

"An educational instrument now 300-years-old was in need of revision to make it suitable for use with the modern child," explained the Rev. Harold Riley, synodical secretary of the Convocation of Canterbury.

The revision is longer than the old, with added material on the Church, the means of grace, the Bible, Christian duty and Christian hope. Despite divided opinion on the matter, the question-and-answer method has been retained as a method of stressing the moral responsibility of each person for his actions.

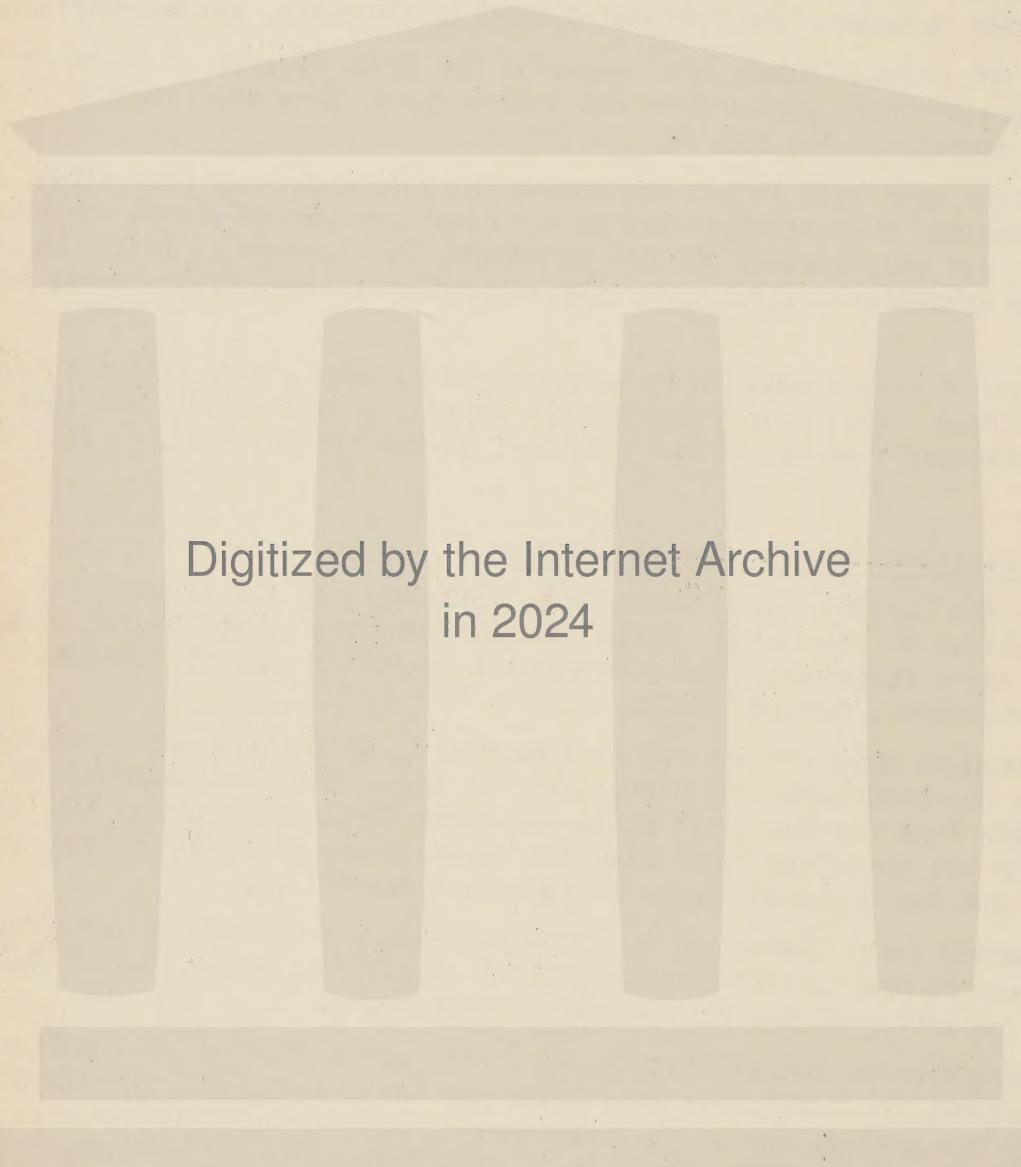
The commission decided against the preparation of separate catéchisms for adults and children. The individual catechist, it was agreed, could be selective and amplify upon various portions of the revisions in dealing with various age groups.

EPS, Geneva.

Church World Service Makes Far East Orphan Study

(Hongkong) - Church World Service has sent a three-member commission here to study problems affecting orphan children in Hongkong and Korea.

The commission is conducting a field study in co-operation with missionaries, orphanage directors and local governmental representatives.



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James McCracken, CWS director of immigration services, noted that "there still are large numbers of orphaned children abroad, but because of complex governmental regulations and other complications, inter-country adoption is becoming increasingly difficult".

It is possible, it was reported, that the commission's findings may include recommendations for possible new legislation regarding such inter-country adoptions.

Since the end of the Korean War, orphans have proved to be one of the country's major and most tragic problems. Any child placed for adoption by one or both parents is legally classed as an orphan, and many are unacceptable in Korean society because of mixed blood.

In Hongkong, scores of youngsters have been placed for adoption by their parents after leaving the Communist mainland. They have taken this step after being unable to find work in the overcrowded city.

While many orphans have been adopted, Mr. McCracken noted that hundreds of other children are being sought for adoption.

Need for the survey was stimulated by the expiration in June, 1961, of legislation permitting entry of orphans into the United States. EPS, Geneva.

#### South Africa Bishop Scores Discrimination

(Bloemfontein, South Africa) - The Rt. Rev. B. B. Burnett, Anglican bishop of Bloemfontein, has declared that the greatest problem facing the Church in South Africa was the fact that its understanding of the Gospel required it to follow a course in conflict with the Government's racial policy.

In a pastoral letter, the prelate commented that the policy of separation applied without consulting and without the consent of the non-white population could not help but involve some degree of unfair discrimination and hardship.

"We must admit with sorrow and shame;" he said, "that we of the Church of this province have not always been faithful to the task of showing unity in Christ. We have always insisted that all belonging to the church, no matter of what race or colour, are equally members of the one Church and, in our synods, clergy, and laity, of whatever race and colour sit and consult together.

"We cannot be content until there is freedom for men of all races to share everywhere in the sacramental unity of the Church's life", he continued. "We call upon our people to strive to this end with love and patience and with the determination to obey God's will for His people." EPS, Geneva.

#### Moscow Issues New Year's Message

(Moscow) - Patriarch Alexei, head of the Russian Orthodox Church, has expressed the hope in a New Year's message that "the struggle for peace which is being conducted by all thinking mankind may be crowned with complete success in the New Year".

The Patriarch, who spoke over the Moscow Radio, shortly after his return from a month-long visit to Orthodox centres in the Near and Middle East, said: "All Christians and all church leaders, mindful of Christ's commandment, must support decisively the desire for peace and the peace partisans movement."

He said that his recent tour gave grounds for hoping that "the personal contacts established will not only promote a further strengthening of the ties between the churches but of the cause of peace which is desired by all peoples on earth". (See EPS No. 1) EPS, Geneva.



Religious Broadcasting On Increase in Japan

(Tokyo) - The amount of religious broadcasting over private stations in Japan has approximately doubled since 1956, although the rate of increase of programmes of other religions has been more rapid than that of Christian groups during the four-year period.

The figures based on a new survey released by AVACO (Audio-Visual Activities Committee of the National Christian Council of Japan) show 1.03 per cent of air time given to religious programmes in November 1960, as compared with 0.58 per cent in 1956. The percentage of broadcasting time occupied by Christian programmes was 0.41 in 1956 and 0.71 per cent in 1960.

An AVACO spokesman said the comparatively rapid increase in the use of radio by non-Christian religions is due to the new awareness of their leaders of the importance of broadcasting and because "they have started from a lower plateau of total activity". Of the 68 religious programmes in this category by broadcast in 1960, 32 were presented by Protestants, four by Roman Catholics, 18 by Buddhists, 8 by Shintos and five by "new religions".

EPS, Geneva.

Volunteers Sought for Africa-Asia Church Posts

(Basle) - The Basle Mission has issued an urgent appeal to young clergymen and theological students to volunteer for missionary service in Africa and Asia.

The mission said the volunteers will be sent to the Cameroons, Ghana, India, and Hongkong, where they will train native pastors, teachers, and catechists.

In its appeal, the Basle Mission pointed out that the slogan, "No More Room for White People", no longer applies in these areas. It said that missionaries are now welcome after a period of uncertainty and social transition in these countries.

However, the mission made it clear that volunteers will be unable "to claim positions of leadership or to manifest superiority". "They will have to place themselves entirely under the control and the supervision of the native churches and their agencies", it stressed.

The mission further stated that pioneer work must be started in northern Borneo and in the Mandara mountains in the north Cameroons, where there are no indigenous churches.

EPS, Geneva.

Radio Vatican Broadcasts Protestant Theologian's Address

(Rome) - An address by a Protestant theologian has, for the first time, been broadcast by Radio Vatican.

The address was delivered by Prof. Peter Meinhold, professor of church history and dogma at the University of Kiel, and was broadcast in German from the Vatican on January 6.

Speaking on the topic, "Meetings Between Churches in Love and Truth", Prof. Meinhold stressed the need "to seek in love for the expression of truth which has been entrusted to the Christian in the Gospel... which all the Church are convinced that they possess".

The Lordship of Christ must be proclaimed and made manifest to the world through the fellowship of all Christians as members of the body of Jesus Christ, he stressed.



On the same programme, Dr. Albert Brandenburg, a Catholic theologian, spoke on comparative studies of various Christian confessions made at the Adam-Möhler Institute at Paderborn, Germany.

Both theologians met together in Rome during the Christmas holidays with other representatives of the "Augsburg Group" which seeks to promote understanding between churches. It was agreed that official communication could be deepened by regular contacts between church leaders.

EPS, Geneva.

### Cardinal Warns Against Exaggerating Unity Obstacles

(Rome) - Augustin Cardinal Bea, president of the Vatican Secretariat for Christian Unity, has warned against over-emphasising the obstacles confronting moves toward Christian unity.

Writing on the purpose of the Apostolate of Prayer, Cardinal Bea noted that the obstacles are serious enough, but he commented:

"We must not deny the good, the tremendous good, that we find among our separated brethren, still less should we set ourselves up as judges of their responsibilities.

"The facts of history are too complex for human judgement. Very often the adamant attitude of Catholics on matters of dogma, the recollection of past struggles and wounds, has hardened peoples' hearts. They do not go so far as to hate, but they are often indifferent and careless."

EPS, Geneva.

### 13,000 Get New Homes in 1960 with WCC Aid

(Geneva) - During 1960 13,081 refugees were resettled in new countries by the World Council of Churches, a meeting of the Administrative Committee of its Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees, has been told in Geneva.

This was described as exciting news by Miss Janet Lacey, chairman of the Division's Refugee Sub-Committee period. She said that it meant that every one of these 13,000 people had been found a permanent home.

However, she pointed out, the resettlement programme represents only a part of the World Council's work during World Refugee Year. This included aid to refugees still in camps, vocational training, medical aid and similar assistance.

The total of resettled refugees in 1960 was upwards of fifteen hundred more than that for the previous twelve months.

Part of this improvement is directly attributable to WRY which led churches to provide additional funds for resettlement of Stateless persons.

In addition, WRY moved Canada to restart its sponsorship scheme. Because of this, Canada now stands third in the table of host countries with a total of 735 refugees admitted during 1960. The United States welcomed 6,397 refugees during the last twelve months, and Australia opened its doors to 4,438.

The biggest wave of refugees came from the Netherlands which sent 4,713, followed by Greece with 2,914 and Hongkong with 1,128.

EPS, Geneva.

### In Brief

The Vatican Radio has listed the recent visit of Dr. Geoffrey Francis Fisher, Archbishop of Canterbury, with Pope John XXIII as one of the major religious events of 1960. It said the visit was "an example of charity without prejudicing immutable principles" and "a very good example to all Christians".



West German Protestants in Dusseldorf have founded an organisation for the support of the Waldensian Church, the largest non-Roman Catholic body in Italy. The organisation which calls itself "Circle of Friends of the Waldensian Church" will provide for material relief measures and for the establishment of personal contacts and individual aid. Similar groups also exist in a number of other European countries and in the United States.

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A national interdenominational service commemorating the 86th birthday of Dr. Albert Schweitzer will be held in Washington, D.C., Cathedral (Episcopal) on Sunday, January 15, with members of the US Congress, government officials and foreign diplomats in attendance. A highlight of the service will be the dedication of 86 tons of supplies - one ton for each year of his life - to be sent to the famed medical missionary headquarters in Lambaréne by the Religious Heritage of America, a private organisation, which is sponsoring the service.

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In the United States, the American Lutheran Church of 2,258,092 members began its official life on New Year's Day. As successor to the Evangelical, American and United Evangelical Lutheran churches, the new denomination constituted last April represents the fruition of more than 10 years of negotiation for the three-way merger.

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Representatives of the Protestant, Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Jewish faiths will participate in the inauguration of US President-elect John F. Kennedy, on January 20. The Orthodox representative will be Archbishop Iakovos of New York, head of the Archdiocese of North and South America, and a president of the World Council of Churches.

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An interdenominational Protestant radio station in Seoul, Korea, Station HLKY, has been awarded a certificate of commendation by Prime Minister John M. Chang in recognition of "the fine example (it has) set for the future of civilian broadcasting in Korea". The station was founded in 1954 by the radio committee of the National Christian Council of Korea and broadcasts programmes of worship, inspiration, information and religious drama and music to both North and South Korea.

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The Rev. Stefano R. Moshi, who two years ago became the first African head of a Tanganyikian Lutheran church body, has been named the first African Lutheran Bishop. The 140,000 member Lutheran Church of Northern Tanganyika, meeting in synod session recently, voted to confer the episcopal title upon its highest office to which it elected Pastor Moshi in November, 1958. At the same time it changed the title of vice-president to assistant bishop.

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Formation of an English-speaking congregation in Copenhagen Denmark, has been authorized by the American Lutheran Church. It will be the denominations second congregation in Europe. The first was started two years ago in Oslo, Norway.

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